

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously Presented) A method for managing a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:
  - configuring monitoring parameters for network interface cards within the distributed data processing system using a network management framework;
  - dynamically discovering a set of discovered endpoints within the distributed data processing system;
  - designating a plurality of discovered endpoints as mission critical endpoints;
  - choosing mission critical twin endpoints from a subset of discovered endpoints which have not been previously specified as twin endpoints; and
  - associating a mission critical twin endpoint with each mission critical endpoint, wherein a mission critical twin endpoint is a discovered endpoint that has a communication history with a mission critical endpoint with which the mission critical twin endpoint is being associated.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising:
  - retrieving [[an]] a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) table from a discovered endpoint;
  - searching the SNMP table for an address associated with a mission critical endpoint; and
  - associating the discovered endpoint with the mission critical endpoint in response to finding the address associated with the mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising:
  - selecting an endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints that has a most significant communication history with a particular mission critical endpoint; and

creating a mission critical twin association between the selected endpoint and the particular mission critical endpoint in response to a determination of the most significant communication history.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

retrieving ~~[[an]]~~ a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) table from a discovered endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints;  
searching the SNMP table for an address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint;  
in response to finding the address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table, obtaining a value from the SNMP table to be compared with values obtained from other retrieved SNMP tables; and  
determining the most significant communication history based on a comparison of the values obtained from the retrieved SNMP tables.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A apparatus for managing a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

configuring means for configuring monitoring parameters for network interface cards within the distributed data processing system using a network management framework;

discovering means for dynamically discovering a set of discovered endpoints within the distributed data processing system;

designating means for designating a plurality of discovered endpoints as mission critical endpoints;

~~first choosing means for choosing mission critical twin endpoints from a subset of discovered endpoints which have not been previously specified as twin endpoints; and~~

first associating means for associating a mission critical twin endpoint with each mission critical endpoint, wherein a mission critical twin endpoint is a discovered endpoint that has a communication history with a mission critical endpoint with which the mission critical twin endpoint is being associated;  
and

rerouting means for rerouting an action directed to a given mission critical endpoint to the given mission critical endpoint's associated mission critical twin endpoint.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:  
~~first retrieving means for retrieving an SNMP table from a discovered endpoint;~~  
~~first searching means for searching the SNMP table for an address associated with a mission critical endpoint; and~~  
~~second associating means for associating the discovered endpoint with the mission critical endpoint in response to finding the address associated with the mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table~~  
wherein the action is a polling action, and the associated mission critical twin endpoint responds to the polling action directed to the given mission critical endpoint in lieu of the given mission critical endpoint responding to the polling action to thereby automatically limit bandwidth consumption of the given mission critical endpoint.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 ~~further comprising:~~  
~~first selecting means for selecting an endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints that has a most significant communication history with a particular mission critical endpoint; and~~  
~~first creating means for creating a mission critical twin association between the selected endpoint and the particular mission critical endpoint in response to a determination of the most significant communication history~~  
wherein the action is an action object from an application requesting the action on the given mission critical endpoint.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13 ~~further comprising:~~  
~~second retrieving means for retrieving an SNMP table from a discovered endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints;~~  
~~second searching means for searching the SNMP table for an address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint; first obtaining means for obtaining, in response to finding the address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table, a value from the SNMP table to be compared with values obtained from other retrieved SNMP tables; and~~  
~~determining means for determining the most significant communication history based on a comparison of the values obtained from the retrieved SNMP tables~~  
wherein the application requests the action on the given mission critical endpoint without regard to whether the mission critical endpoint has been specially categorized as being mission critical, and a

response for a given mission critical twin endpoint associated with the given mission critical endpoint is provided to the application in lieu of a response for the given mission critical endpoint to thereby automatically limit bandwidth consumption of the given mission critical endpoint.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a distributed data processing system for managing the distributed data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for configuring monitoring parameters for network interface cards within the distributed data processing system using a network management framework;

instructions for dynamically discovering a set of discovered endpoints within the distributed data processing system;

instructions for designating a plurality of discovered endpoints as mission critical endpoints;

instructions for choosing mission critical twin endpoints from a subset of discovered endpoints which have not been previously specified as twin endpoints; and

instructions for associating a mission critical twin endpoint with each mission critical endpoint, wherein a mission critical twin endpoint is a discovered endpoint that has a communication history with a mission critical endpoint with which the mission critical twin endpoint is being associated.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising:

instructions for retrieving [[an]] a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) table from a discovered endpoint;

instructions for searching the SNMP table for an address associated with a mission critical endpoint; and

instructions for associating the discovered endpoint with the mission critical endpoint in response to finding the address associated with the mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising:  
instructions for selecting an endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints that has a most significant communication history with a particular mission critical endpoint; and  
instructions for creating a mission critical twin association between the selected endpoint and the particular mission critical endpoint in response to a determination of the most significant communication history.
21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:  
instructions for retrieving [[an]] a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) table from a discovered endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints;  
instructions for searching the SNMP table for an address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint;  
instructions for obtaining, in response to finding the address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table, a value from the SNMP table to be compared with values obtained from other retrieved SNMP tables; and  
instructions for determining the most significant communication history based on a comparison of the values obtained from the retrieved SNMP tables.